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FRIDAY
MAY 7, 1954

Arrived 9:15 Gare de Lyon. Art Hartman met me with some papers and I got home at 10:00. Left at 10:15 and caught plane (Belgian Sabena) from Le Bourget at 11:00. Reached Brussels at noon, lunched, departed at one on another Sabena plane. At two-thirty I was at Jean Monnet's house, where I found the Monnets, Sam Waugh, Randy Burgess, Clarence Hunter, and Stan Cleveland. There was an informal and interesting meeting at 4:30, attended by all nine members of the High Authority. Waugh and Burgess answered many questions about the American loan, and Burgess described the present condition of the U. S. economy in optimistic terms.

Thence we went to a cocktail party at the Bob Eisenbergs' attended by almost all the CSC officials and foreign diplomats. After a brief respite, we dined with the High Authority members, and some added starters, at Monnet's.

During the late afternoon the distressing news was heard of the overrunning of Dien Bien Phu by the Vietminh. No details were given, but the last hours of combat must have been infernal. My heart sinks in contemplating the fate of the superbly courageous garrison. The repercussions of the event in France may be extremely grave. Embarrassing questions will be asked as to how and why it was determined to allow these troops to be concentrated in such a topographically vulnerable position. Scapegoats are always sought under these circumstances.

Slept at the Brasseur.

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